

Winter Activities

Winter visitors enjoy the beauty of Voyageurs National Park by snowmobile, on cross-country skis, in an auto on the ice road, on snowshoes, or in ice-fishing houses. Voyageurs invites visitors who want to get out of the cold to come to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. At the Center, you can enjoy exhibits and programs that feature dogsledders, wintering voyageurs, and naturalists who share their knowledge and perspectives about the history and ecology of Voyageurs National Park.

Rainy Lake Visitor Center Winter Hours and Services

The Rainy Lake Visitor Center is open Wednesday to Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 218/286-5258. The Visitor Center offers:

- Voyageurs National Park information
- Convenient snowmobile parking
- Snow and ice condition updates
- A cozy fire and hot beverages
- Voyageurs Outpost – Children’s corner
- Maps of ski, snowshoe & snowmobile trails
- Gift Shop & Bookstore
- Lifesize bull moose
- Exhibits and films
- Snowshoes for loan
- Cross-country ski rentals

Winter Programs at Rainy Lake Visitor Center
Learn about ice cutting and totem poles or go snowshoeing or skiing. All these programs and more this winter at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Visit or call 218/286-5258 or 888/381-2873 for a schedule.

Gas, Food, Lodging, and More...
Lodging, food, gas, and other services are available in the four resort communities adjacent to the park.

Know the Closures

- All land areas in the park are closed to snowmobiles except for safety portage trails and the Chain of Lakes scenic trail.
- Some areas may be posted closed for wildlife protection. Obey the signs on the trail.

Snowmobile Trail Conditions Information
Voyageurs National Park: trail conditions posted weekly at www.nps.gov/voya; look for link under “news & events”

International Falls.....	800/FALLS MN
Kabetogama Lake.....	800/524-9085
Ash River.....	800/950-2061
Crane Lake	800/362-7405

Kettle Falls Hotel
The Kettle Falls Hotel is closed during the winter. Access to view the hotel up close is by foot only. There are no snowmobile trails up to the front of the hotel.

Cross-Country Skiing
Enjoy the tranquility of cross-country skiing at Voyageurs National Park. Ski rentals available at Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Area ski trails (groomed and tracked unless noted) include:

- The Black Bay Ski Trail is located 1 mile north of the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on the Rainy Lake Ice Road and offers 6 miles of trail.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource’s challenging 10.2-mile Tilson Creek Trail is accessible from the Rainy Lake Visitor Center upper parking lot. Groomed and ungroomed sections.
- Approximately 3.5 miles of forested trail await the skier at the Echo Bay Trail. The trail is located 3.5 miles from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center. Follow County Road 122 north toward Woodenfrog Campground. Turn right at the Northern Lights Road. Parking area is on the left.
- The Kab-Ash trail offers 22 miles of ski trails.



Ice Fishing
Ghostly winter quiet, rugged piney shorelines, and outstanding angling make Voyageurs National Park an ice angler’s dream. Place ice houses at least 50 feet from the center of snowmobile trails or the ice road.



Rainy Lake Ice Road
The 7-mile Rainy Lake Ice Road extends from the boat launch ramp at Rainy Lake Visitor Center to the mouth of Cranberry Bay.

- The ice road is open to cars and trucks of less than 7,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight. SNOWMOBILES are NOT permitted on the ice road.
- The speed limit is 30 MPH.
- When heavy snow, slush, or thin ice exists, the ice road may be closed or shortened for safety. Travel beyond the plowed section is unsafe.

Snowshoeing
Journey into the past! For hundreds of years, people traveled on snowshoes. Explore the winter landscape on one of the park’s three tracked snowshoe trails. Snowshoes for loan are available at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.

- Blind Ash Bay Trail (2.5 miles round trip). Trailhead is at the Kabetogama Lake overlook parking lot along the road to the Ash River Visitor Center.
- Sullivan Bay Trail (1.5 miles round trip). Follow signs to the Ash River Visitor Center. Trailhead is just past the Beaver Pond Overlook on the north side of Sullivan Bay.
- Oberholtzer Trail (2 miles round trip). Trailhead is just outside the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.



All About Snowmobiling
Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity at Voyageurs National Park. A snowmobile can take you miles into the heart of the park’s big lakes.

Trail Grooming
Trails are groomed with a quad-track. Snowmobiles should yield right-of-way to the groomer by staying to the extreme right side of the trail. How often the park grooms trails depends upon trail and snow conditions, and the availability of staff.

Don’t Get Bugged Down
Avoid slush! Stay on groomed trails! Slush forms when snow weighs down the ice and forces water up through cracks. Heavy snow may insulate the slush and keep it from freezing. Slush can be several inches deep, causing snowmobiles to become bogged down. Grooming packs the snow, pushing water up to the surface where it freezes.



Snowmobile Safety Tips
Follow these tips to make your visit a safe and courteous one.

- Call for trail conditions before you leave home or check www.nps.gov/voya.
- Keep to the right when passing trail markers, on portages, and especially when visibility is poor.
- Marked land portages help snowmobilers avoid thin ice and open water. Use them!
- Snowmobile speed limit is 45 miles per hour on trails and 25 miles per hour on safety portages.
- Avoid slush by staying on marked and groomed trails.
- Be alert for ice pressure ridges. Along trails, they are marked with 2 crossed orange caution stakes on each side.
- Travel with others and let someone at home know your planned route and time of return.
- **DON’T drink and drive. It is illegal to operate a snowmobile under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

OUTDOOR FUN

SNOWMOBILES

